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# Message Text

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10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 EUR-12 AF-06 /092 W
---------- 067422
R 121455Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 166
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1083

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US
SUBJECT: GUSH EMUNIM PRESENTS WEST BANK SETTLEMENT PLAN

REF: 75 TEL AVIV 7713

1. GUSH EMUNIM, THE MOVEMENT OF RELIGIOUS SETTLERS AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEL AVIV ON FEBRUARY 11 AT WHICH IT ANNOUNCED PLAN TO SETTLE ONE MILLION JEWS ON WEST BANK IN NEXT TEN YEARS. PLAN CALLS FOR EXTABLISHMENT OF 100 NEW SETTLEMENTS INCLUDING SEVEN TOWNS. THE TOWNS WOULD BE LOCATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: DVIR (BETWEEN HEBRON AND BEERSHEBA), KIRYAT ARBA, SHILO (BETWEEN RAMALLAH AND NABLUS), ATOP MVT. GERIZIM, DOTAN (BETWEEN NABLUS AND JENIN) AND EFRAT (EAST OF GUSH ETZION). THE TOWNS WOULD BE SURROUNDED BY SMALLER JEWISH SETTLEMENTS.

2. IN A MEMORANDUM IN ENGLISH FOR THE FOREIGN PRESS, VGUSH EMUNIM LEADERS EXPLACINED THEIR OBJECTIVE AS FOLLOWS:
C
"JEWISH SETTLEMENT ON A LARGE SCALVE WILL BE A NOTIONAL AND
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MORAL GUARANTEE TO OUR SOVEREIGNTY IN THESE AREAS AND WILL

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CLARIFY TO THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN
POSSESSION OF THOSE AREAS IS RESOLUTE. ONLY MASSIVE JEWISH
SETTLEMENT CAN DEFINE OUR PRESENCE (THERE)...IN THE MORAL
LIGHT OF A NATION RETURNING TO ITS (HOME) LAND." GUSH EMUNIM
LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT THEY COULD NOT RECRUIT
SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO SETTLE ALL THESE SITES.
THEY ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT WERE THE GOVERNMENT VTO OFFER ATTRACTIVE
CONDITIONS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS WOULD MOVE TO THE SETTLEMENT
AREAS.

3. GUSH EMUNIM LEADERSHIP ALSO INFORMED THE PRESS THAT IT
HAD PRESENTED ITS PLAN FOR EXPANDED INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO RABIN AS WELL AS OTHER
CABINET MEMBERS ON FEBRUARY 10. THE TIMING WAS INTENDED TO
PRECEDE THE ANTICIPATED CABINET DEBATE ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENT
POLICY WHICH PERES PROMISED THE GUSH EMUNIM ORGANIZATION LAST
DECEMBER IN CONNVECTION WITH THE COMPROMISE OVER THE ILLEGAL SETTLE-
MENT EFFORT AT SEBASTIA. PERES HAD INDICATED THAT A FINAL
DECISION ON THE SEBASTIA SETTLEMENT WOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN
THREE MONTHS, (REFTEL).

4. LABOR ALIGNMENT'S JUNIOR PARTNER, THE MAPAM PARTY, HAS BEEN
QUICK TO CRITICIZE THE GUSH EMUNIM PROPOSAL. ITS POLITICAL
SECRETARY FEDER DESCRIBED THE PLAN AS A "BALLOON...AND A
POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION DESIGNED TO PUT OBSTACLES ON THE
ROAD TO ANY ZBSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND TO
FRUSTRATE ANY POSSIBLE BREAK IN THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK."
AGRICULTURE MINISTER AHARON UZAN ALSO HAS COME OUT AGAINST
NEW SETTLEMENTS, STATING IN INTERVIEW LAST WEEK THAT OUTSIDE
OF THE JORDAN RIFT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SETTLEMENTS IN
JUDEA AND SAMARIA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE BASED HIS STAND
NOT ON POLITICAL, BUT PURELY ECONOMIC REASONS.

5. COMMENT: GUSH EMUNIM PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF ONE
MILLION JEWS IN TEN YEARS IS CLEARLY ACT OF POLITICAL BRAVADO. IN
ALMOST NINE YEARS SINCE ISRAEL OCCUPIED THE WEST BANK AND
OTHER TERRRITORIES, ONLY SEVERAL THOUSAND JEWISH SETTLERS
HAVE ACTUALLY MOVED INTO THE SETTLEMENTS. NONETHELESS,
APART FROM THE HYPERBOLE, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT GUSH
EMUNIM INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS CASE FOR ADDITIONAL
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ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS PARTICULARLY IN SAMARIA, AND THAT TOUGH SHOW-
DOWN AWAITS THE CABINET.
DUNNIGAN



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# Message Attributes

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